

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00596 021349Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-20 TRSE-00 DODE-00
H-02 NSC-05 AF-10 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 IO-14 /127 W
-----050127 040809Z /15

R 021200Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO RUEHOT
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0596

BRUSSELS ALSO USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PERP
SUBJ: THORN'S PRESS STATEMENT ON THE NATO SUMMIT

1. IN AN INTERVIEW IN WASHINGTON WITH A CORRESPONDENT
FOR THE "REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN", THE LUXEMBOURG PRESS
ON JUNE 2 REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN
CALLED THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT "VERY POSITIVE".

THERE FOLLOWS AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE RE-
PUBLICAIN LORRAIN INTERVIEW.

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION. QUESTION: "THE ALLIES OF THE
UNITED STATES HAVE HAD DOUBTS FOR OVER A YEAR ABOUT
THE FIRMNESS OF MR. CARTER'S LEADERSHIP BECAUSE HIS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00596 021349Z POSS DUPE

FOREIGN POLICY HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF ZIG-ZAGGING.
WAS IT YOUR IMPRESSION DURING THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING
IN WASHINGTON THAT THE PRESIDENT'S HESITATIONS ARE
OVER AND THAT HE NOW KNOWS WHERE HE WANTS TO LEAD
THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES?"

-- THORN'S RESPONSE: "MR. CARTER'S AUTHORITY WAS
NEVER DOUBTED BY THE NATO PARTNERS. IN ANY CASE, IT

WAS NOT THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG EUROPEANS. NONETHELESS, THERE IS A DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT AFTER THE TWO VICTORIES IN THE CONGRESS -- THAT IS, THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT AS WELL AS TO ISRAEL -- THE PRESTIGE OF MR. CARTER IS RISING IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SEE IF MR. CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY WILL IN THE FUTURE BE COHERENT. HE IS A HIGHLY MORAL MAN WHO WEIGHS WITH GREAT DELIBERATION THE PROS AND CONS, BUT HIS HESITATIONS ARE NOT THOSE OF WEAKNESS OR OF A MAN WHO LACKS WILL POWER. HIS METHOD OF PRESENTING (HIS IDEAS) WAS IMPRESSIVE. ON THE ONE HAND, IT WAS EASY TO GAUGE HIS CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE COULD SEE THAT HE WAS CONCERNED TO LEAVE NOTHING EQUIVOCAL, TO LEAVE NO DOUBTES, AND TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS WHICH THE ALLIES RAISED."

-- QUESTION: "WHAT GLOBAL DEFINITION WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE MEETING?"

-- RESPONSE: "ONE SHOULD AVOID SUPERLATIVES, BUT ONE SHOULD ALSO AVOID MINIMIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUMMIT MEETING. IT WAS NOT ROUTINE. IT WAS POSITIVE. IT CEMENTED THE ALLIANCE, IT GAVE THOSE WHO TOOK PART A GREATER FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER; THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY; THERE WAS A RARE DEGREE OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00596 021349Z POSS DUPE

UNANIMITY, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO AFRICA; ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AVOIDED SUBJECTS WHICH WERE NOT ESSENTIAL TO THE ALLIANCE. THE SUMMIT WAS USEFUL FOR EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND FOR ALL OF THEM AS A GROUP. NOTABLY WITH TWO SUMMITS TAKING PLACE IN GERMANY IN THE NEAR FUTURE -- ONE OF THE NINE AT BEREMEN AND THE ONE OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN BONN-- THE BILATERAL CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON ON THE MARGIN OF THE SUMMIT WERE EXTREMELY USEFUL." END TRANSLATION

3. THE REPUBLICAIN REPORT ADDED THAT IN PRIVATE THORN SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING OF THIS KIND CHARACTERIZED BY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AS FRANK AND DIRECT; THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAD AVOIDED PURSUING MARGINAL AND STERILE GUARRELS; THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITE AFRICAN POLICY; AND THAT THE CONCERN CAUSED BY SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA WAS UNANIMOUS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THORN ALSO SAID IN PRIVATE THAT THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT POLICY TO FOLLOW IN ZAIRE, NOTABLY OVER TWO INDEPENDENT PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED SEPARATELY.

THESE WERE ECONOMIC AID, WHICH THE CREDITORS OF ZAIRE
WANT TO DELIVER, AND MILITARY AID, WHICH THE U.S. AND
FRANCE WANT TO GIVE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU. LOWENSTEIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUXEMB00596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0808
Format: TEL
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806103/aaaadkkr.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de25777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2146259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THORN'S PRESS STATEMENT ON THE NATO SUMMIT
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, LU, NATO, (THORN, GASTON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de25777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014